

What is Claim d is:

1. A method of producing apomictic seeds comprising the steps of:

- (i) transforming plant material with a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein the presence of which in an active form in a cell, or membrane thereof, renders said cell embryogenic,
- (ii) regenerating the thus transformed material into plants, or carpel-containing parts thereof, and
- (iii) expressing the sequence in the vicinity of the embryo sac.

2. A method according to the preceding claim, wherein the apomictic seeds are of the adventitious embryony type.

3. A method according to either of the preceding claims, wherein expression of the sequence yields a protein kinase capable of spanning a plant cell membrane.

4. A method according to the preceding claim wherein the kinase is capable of autophosphorylation.

5. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the protein is a leucine rich repeat receptor like kinase and comprises a ligand binding domain, a proline box, a transmembrane domain, a kinase domain and a protein binding domain.

6. A method according to the preceding claim, wherein the protein lacks a functional ligand binding domain but comprises a proline box, a transmembrane domain, a kinase domain and a protein binding domain.

7. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein once incorporated into the cell membrane, the protein binding domain is located intra-cellularly.

8. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the sequence further encodes a cell membrane targeting sequence.

9. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the sequence is that depicted in SEQ ID Nos. 1 or 2 or is complementary to one which hybridizes under stringent conditions with the said sequences and which encodes a membrane bound protein having kinase activity.

10. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the sequence is modified in that known mRNA instability motifs or polyadenylation signals are removed and/or codons which are preferred by the plant into which the sequence is to be inserted are used so that expression of the thus modified sequence in the said plant yields substantially similar protein to that obtained by expression of the unmodified sequence in the organism in which the protein is endogenous.

11. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein expression of the sequence is under control of an inducible or developmentally regulated promoter.

12. A method according to the preceding claim, wherein expression of the sequence is under control of one of the following: a promoter which regulates expression of SERK genes *in planta*, the carrot chitinase DcEP3-1 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* AtChitIV gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* LTP-1 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* bel-1 gene promoter, the petunia fbp-7 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* ANT gene promoter, the promoter of the O126 gene from *Phalaenopsis*.

13. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the sequence is expressed in the somatic cells of the embryo sac, ovary wall, nucellus, or integuments.

14. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the endosperm within the apomictic seed results from fusion of polar nuclei within the embryo sac with a pollen-derived male gamete nucleus.

15. A method according to the preceding claim, wherein the sequence encoding the protein is expressed prior to fusion of the polar nuclei with the male gamete nucleus.

16. DNA comprising a sequence encoding a protein the presence of which in an active form in a cell, or membrane thereof, renders said cell embryogenic.
17. DNA according to claim 16, wherein the protein is a leucine rich repeat receptor like kinase and comprises a ligand binding domain, a proline box, a transmembrane domain, a kinase domain and a protein binding domain, the ligand binding domain optionally being absent or functionally inactive.
18. DNA according to either of claims 16 or 17 comprising a DNA sequence encoding a N-terminal protein fragment having the following amino acid sequence: Gln Ser Trp Asp Pro Thr Leu Val Asn Pro Cys Thr Trp Phe His Val Thr Cys Asn.
19. DNA according to claim 18 comprising a DNA sequence encoding a N-terminal protein fragment having the following amino acid sequence: Val Xaa Gln Ser Trp Asp Pro Thr Leu Val Asn Pro Cys Thr Trp Phe His Val Thr Cys Asn
with Xaa being a variable amino acid, but preferably Leu or Val.
20. DNA according to claim 19 comprising a DNA sequence encoding a N-terminal protein fragment having the following amino acid sequence: Val Xaa Gln Ser Trp Asp Pro Thr Leu Val Asn Pro Cys Thr Trp Phe His Val Thr Cys Asn Xab Xac Xad Xae Val Xaf Arg Val Asp Leu Gly Asn Xag Xah Leu Ser Gly His Leu Xai Pro Glu Leu Gly Xaj Leu Xak Xal Leu Gln
with Xaa to Xak being a variable amino acid, but preferably

Xaa = Leu or Val
Xab = Asn or Gln
Xac = Glu or Asp or His
Xad = Asn or His
Xae = Ser or Arg or Gln
Xaf = Ile or Thr
Xag = Ala or Ser
Xah = Glu or Asn
Xai = Val or Ala
Xaj = Val or Lys
Xak = Lys or Glu

Xai=Asn or His

21. DNA comprising a sequence encoding a protein having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 3, or a protein substantially similar thereto which is capable of being membrane bound and which has kinase activity.
22. DNA comprising a sequence encoding a protein having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 21, or a protein substantially similar thereto which is capable of being membrane bound and which has kinase activity.
23. DNA comprising a sequence encoding a protein having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 33, or a protein substantially similar thereto which is capable of being membrane bound and which has kinase activity.
24. DNA comprising a sequence encoding a protein having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID Nos. 23, 25, 27, 29 and 31, or a protein substantially similar thereto which is capable of being membrane bound and which has kinase activity.
25. DNA according to any preceding claim, comprising a DNA having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID Nos. 1 or 2 or a sequence which is complementary to one which hybridizes under stringent conditions with the said sequences and which encodes a membrane bound protein having kinase activity.
26. DNA according to any preceding claim, comprising a DNA having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No: 20 or a sequence which is complementary to one which hybridizes under stringent conditions with the said sequences and which encodes a membrane bound protein having kinase activity.
27. DNA according to any preceding claim, comprising a DNA having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No: 32 or a sequence which is complementary to one which hybridizes under stringent conditions with the said sequences and which encodes a membrane bound protein having kinase activity.

28. DNA according to any preceding claim, comprising a DNA having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID Nos: 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 or a sequence which is complementary to one which hybridizes under stringent conditions with the said sequences and which encodes a membrane bound protein having kinase activity.

29. DNA according to any of the preceding claims, which further encodes a cell membrane targeting sequence.

30. DNA according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the protein encoding region is under expression control of a developmentally regulated or inducible promoter.

31. DNA according to claim 30, wherein the promoter is one of the following: a promoter which regulates expression of SERK genes *in planta*, the carrot chitinase DcEP3-1 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* AtChitIV gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* LTP-1 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* bel-1 gene promoter, the petunia fbp-7 gene promoter, the *Arabidopsis* ANT gene promoter, the promoter of the O126 gene from *Phalaenopsis*; the *Arabidopsis* DMC1 promoter, the pTA7001 inducible promoter.

32. DNA according to any preceding claim, wherein said DNA is a recombinant DNA.

33. DNA according to any preceding claim, wherein the sequence is modified in that known mRNA instability motifs or polyadenylation signals are removed and/or codons which are preferred by the plant into which the DNA is to be inserted are used so that expression of the thus modified DNA in the said plant yields substantially similar protein to that obtained by expression of the unmodified DNA in the organism in which the protein is endogenous.

34. DNA which is complementary to that which hybridizes under stringent conditions with the DNA of any one of claims 16 to 29.

35. A vector containing a DNA sequence as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 34.

36. Plant cell transformed with the DNA of any one of claims 16 to 34 or the vector of claim 35, which contains the DNA stably incorporated into its genome.

37. Plant cell according to claim 36, which is part of a whole plant.

38. Plants transformed with the DNA of any one of claims 16 to 34 or the vector of claim 35, the progeny of such plants which contain the DNA stably incorporated, and/or the apomictic seeds of such plants or such progeny.

39. Plants transformed with the DNA comprised by the recombinant DNA of claims 16 to 34.

40. Use of the DNA of any one of claims 16-34 in the manufacture of apomictic seeds.

41. Plants which are derived from apomictic seeds obtainable by the method of any one of claims 1-15 or 40.

42. A method of obtaining cultivars comprising the steps of fertilizing plants with the pollen of the plants of either of claims 38, 39 or 40 and cultivars which result from the said method.

43. A method of obtaining embryogenic cells in plant material, comprising transforming the material with a recombinant DNA sequence as claimed in any one of claims 16-34, the DNA comprised by the recombinant DNA of any one of claims 16 to 34, or the vector of claim 35, expressing the sequence in the material or derivatives thereof and subjecting the said material or derivatives to a compound which acts as a ligand for the gene product of the said sequence.

44. A method according to the preceding claim, wherein the sequence encodes a leucine rich repeat receptor like kinase, and the compound is a phyto-hormone.

45. A method of generating somatic embryos under *in vitro* conditions wherein the SERK protein is overexpressed ectopically.

46. A bag containing apomictic seeds obtainable by the method of any one of claims 1-15 or 40.

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